

tioned, to affix four more conductors to the house, to render it more secure from a similar visitation.

4th. With the Board's permission, I will, in rectifying the damage, carry the improvements above suggested into effect.

I have, &c.

(Signed)      W. R. FITZGERALD,  
Civil Architect.

FORT WILLIAM,  
30th March, 1838.

*Memorandum on the Trade between the Towns of Shikarpore and Candahar.—By Lieut. J. POSTANS, Assistant Political Agent, Shikarpore, Sindh.*

As it is of importance in connection with the prospects of trade with the countries bordering on, or accessible by means of the river Indus, to ascertain what return commodities may be looked from these quarters, their value and quality as suitable to the European market, I have availed myself of the arrival of the annual Kuffillahs at Shikarpore from Candahar, to obtain the following information on the various articles composing the investments from the latter place, shewing the return trade for English piece goods, metals, groceries, &c. transmitted from the former.

I have ascertained, from good authority, that the market at Candahar for European fabrics of the usual manufactures suitable to the habits and tastes of the people of these countries, is at present unusually brisk, and the demand far greater than the supply; moreover, that there is every reason to believe from the increase of security to the merchant, decrease of transit dues, impulse lately given to Candahar as a mart for the N. W., and the influx of population, that this demand will not be likely materially to decline. To the fabrics in demand, profits derived, and other particulars, I will refer hereafter.

The insecure state of the Bolan Pass, has this year retarded the arrival of the Caravans, and decreased their number. I shall quote the following list of articles received by one:—

No. 1.—*Turquoise Earth*—mds. 14—price from four rupees to twelve rupees per lb. This article is an important one in the trade to

Shikarpore from Candahar, but it is doubtful if it would be adapted to the European market. The mines are situated at Nishapúr near Meshid, and the Persian Government has of late years placed agents to prevent any large or valuable stones from being exported to Herat, whence they find their way to Shikarpore viâ Candahar; there is therefore a great scarcity of the large Turquoises, which are so much prized, the smaller are sufficiently plentiful to be worn by all classes.

The stone is polished from its rough state by means of a vertical wheel of baked clay, set in motion by the hand and moistened, the value of the stone being entirely determined by the depth of its colour, and absence of white flaws.

- 2.—*Raw Silk* (kokanee)— $\frac{1}{2}$  md. price rupees 9-9-0 per lb.

See memorandum already furnished on this article.

- 3.—*Churus* from Bokhara—5 mds.—price 3 annas per lb.

An intoxicating drug prepared from hemp seed (Bang), and used in these countries for the same purposes as opium elsewhere.

- 4.—*Gum* from Candahar—46 mds.—3 lbs. per rupee.

This gum appears of the same description as that which is known as “Gum Arabic,” and is in most extensive use for dyeing, &c.

- 5.—*Silk*—Manufactured fabrics from Herat of various kinds—pieces 1854: prices not fixed.

None of these would be adapted for the European Market, being entirely manufactured to suit Asiatic tastes, and principally used in the wealthier Sindee harems.

- 6.—*Dried Fruits* of various kinds, kismis—prunes, dried black grapes, walnuts, dried apricots, almonds, and dates, in great quantities:—prices not quoted, as not probably adapted for trade.

- 7.—*Tinsel Thread for embroidery*.—2 mds.—price 1 anna per tolah.

- 8.—*Khund Seah*, preparation from the sugar cane of Jellalabad— $1\frac{1}{2}$  mds.—price  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. per rupee.

- 9.—*Broken Copper and brass vessels*— $4\frac{1}{2}$  mds.—copper 1 rupee 8 annas per lb.—brass 1 rupee 7 annas per lb. These are returned to Shikarpore to be re-manufactured, for which they do not apparently possess the means at Candahar.

- 10.—*Rodung*. Madder dye—40 mds.—price 8 rupees per md. This is an important article in this trade, and brought down in con-

siderable quantities. There are two descriptions called "*Rodung hukree*," and "*Rodung phurreeah*." The latter is cultivated at Candahar, is of a larger size, and valued at 16 rupees per md., or double that of the other.

- 11.—Saffron *Bakooee*— $\frac{1}{2}$  md.—per lb. 15 rupees. "*Bakooee*" so called from its being produced at Bakwa, to the west of Candahar.
- 12.—*Safflower* from Herat (quantity not known) price 37 rupees per lb. about 10 boxes annually, of from 6 to 10 lbs. per box.
- 13.—*Gum Salop* from Herat (quantity not known)—5 Rs. per lb. Small quantities only of this article are brought down, but it is in great request at Shikarpore.
- 14.—*Sir Khisht*, a species of manna, price 5 Rs. per lb; from Herat, used medicinally, and about 10 mds. imported annually.
- 15.—*Musagh*, dye from the walnut tree; Cabool—8 mds— $1\frac{1}{4}$  lb. per rupee.
- 16.—Antimony from Beila in Lus—mds.  $15\frac{1}{2}$ —price  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lb. per rupee. An article in great demand, from the constant use made of it by the natives of these countries. If adapted to the European Market, it should find its way to Bombay viâ Soumeany and Karrachee.
- 17.—Old paper  $6\frac{1}{2}$  mds.—price 2 lbs. per rupee. Sent to Shikarpore to be re-manufactured.
- 18.—*Punvieer* (not known)—20 mds.—9 lbs. per rupee. Used medicinally, and produced from some wild shrub in the hills.
- 19.—*Podeneh*—dried mint—6 mds.—5 rupees per maund.
- 20.—*Hingozeh*—Assafetida—60 mds.— $1\frac{1}{4}$  rupee per lb. This is an important article of this trade, being produced abundantly in Khorassan and the hilly country of Beloochistan.
- 21.—Carraway seeds from Khorassan (quantity not known)—2 lbs. per rupee—about 70 or 80 mds. imported annually.
- 22.—*Airmah*, a very fine description of cotton from Herat, about 80 mds. imported annually—price  $1\frac{3}{4}$  rupee per lb.; used in embroidery, and highly prized.
- 23.—*Cochineal* from Khorassan (quantity not known)—price 9 rupees per lb. The amount of annual import may be about 8 or 10 mds., and its price is occasionally from 18 to 20

rupees per lb. ; it is used in dyeing silks, and also brought to Shikarpore from Bombay.

24.—*Bhojgund* (name not known) from Khorassan—price 14 to 15 rupees per md. ; annually about 70 maunds ; in great request, and used as a dye to silks.

25.—*Gooljileel* (name not known) from Khorassan—price 15 rupees per md. ; annually about 80 mds. ; used as a green dye to silks.

The following, though appertaining to Cutchee, are inserted here, as they are products of that *country*, and imported into the Shikarpore market :

26.—*Alum* from the hilly country of Cutchee, annually about 200 mds.—price 8 rupees per md.

27.—*Khunzul*, Colocynth, bitter apple, grows as a perfect weed all over the plains of Cutchee, and to be purchased at Shikarpore 7 or 8 per one pice.

28.—*Saltpetre* can be manufactured in Cutchee and other parts of the country in any quantity required ; value at Shikarpore 6 rupees per md.

29.—*Sulphur* produced in the Murree and Boogtie hills, where are mines which deserve attention ; about 10 or 12 mds., are brought annually to Shikarpore, where it is valued at 4 rupees per md.

30.—*Khar*, a kind of potash, produced by the incineration of the Lye, or tamarisk, and other salt shrubs ; it is in great use in scouring, dyeing, &c. and worth 1 rupee per  $1\frac{1}{2}$  md. at Shikarpore, 10 or 12,000 mds. are brought in yearly.

The prices of the above articles include all duties, and few of them are exported beyond Khyrpore, or the Sindh territories. About four Caravans arrive annually, and the profit on this branch of the trade is about 10 per cent.

The trade from Shikarpore to Candahar in British manufactures consists principally of the articles hereafter enumerated, and the present profits, all expences paid, are at least 50 per cent. between the two places, notwithstanding the double rate of Camel hire, (52 rupees) consequent upon the demands of our troops. As the present state of the Candahar market, however, may not be considered a fair criterion, or average of the profits of the trade, I may mention, that these

are never less than from 15 to 20 per cent., the rate of Camel hire being 20 rupees a Camel, carrying from 6 to 7 mds.

I learn that complaints have been lately made of the great inferiority of the articles, particularly the want of stability in the colours of the chintzes (printed cottons of all kinds come under this denomination) always in great demand.

In the following list of the fabrics above alluded to, I have also given the names by which they are known in these countries, with samples of such as are not recognized :—

- 1.—“*Ulwān Makhootie*,” red dyed Cotton Cloth.
  - 2.—Cotton White.
  - 3.—“*Kessie*,” partly coloured.
  - 4.—“*Chuhulwel*,” long cloth (of apparently very inferior descriptions).
  - 5.—“*Chintz pukhtet*,” (glazed Chintz.)
  - 6.—“*Budul*,” (printed cottons.)
  - 7.—“*Madrapat*,” bleached.
  - 8.—“” unbleached.
  - 9.—“*Abrah*,” (zebra) red and white.
  - 10.—“,” yellow.
  - 11.—“,” Chenay.
  - 12.—“*Jamadanee*.”
  - 13.—“*Mulmul*.”
  - 14.—“*Juggernat Muslin*.”
  - 15.—“*Mukhmul*,” (black velvet.)
  - 16.—“*Patun*,” bleached, species of sheeting cloth.
  - 17.—“,” unbleached.
  - 18.—“*Mahoot*” coloured (coarse broad cloth.)
  - 19.—“*Khinkaubs*.”
-